

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; 34 CFR 361.48; 361.5(b)(49).

II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:

The Office of Rehabilitation Services ensures that required services are available which are appropriate to the vocational rehabilitation needs of each eligible individual.

Vocational rehabilitation services are any goods or services necessary to assist a person with a disability in preparing for, securing, retaining or retaining an employment outcome that is consistent with the individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice.

They include, but are not limited to:

1. Assessment for determining eligibility and priority of services;
2. Assessment for determining vocational rehabilitation needs, including, if appropriate, an assessment by personnel skilled in rehabilitation technology in accordance with the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE);
3. Counseling and guidance, including personal adjustment counseling and information and support services to assist an individual in exercising informed choice;
4. Referral and other services necessary to help applicants and eligible individuals secure needed services from other agencies, and advice to those individuals about client assistance programs;
5. Physical and mental restoration services;
6. Vocational and other training services, including personal and vocational adjustment, books, tools, and other training materials, except that no training or training services in institutions of higher education may be reimbursed by ORS (see Section 115.28) unless maximum efforts have been made by the state Vocational Rehabilitation agency to secure grant assistance in whole or in part from other sources;
7. Maintenance for those living expenses, such as food, shelter, clothing, and other subsistence items that are in excess of the normal subsistence expenses necessary for the individual's participation in a vocational rehabilitation program;

8. Transportation in connection with the provision of any vocational rehabilitation services. Transportation services may be authorized on a temporary basis while other planned services are occurring. As a supportive service, transportation cannot be used to transport an individual for employment purposes on a permanent basis. Services may be authorized during an initial adjustment period while other arrangements for transportation are being made;
9. Vocational rehabilitation services to family members of an applicant or eligible individual if necessary to that individual's employment outcome;
10. Sign language interpreter services and note-taking services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, including tactile interpreting for individuals who are deaf/blind;
11. Reader services, rehabilitation teaching services, and orientation and mobility services for individuals who are blind;
12. Recruitment and training services to provide new employment opportunities in the fields of rehabilitation, health, welfare, public safety, law enforcement, and other appropriate public service employment;
13. Technical assistance and other consultation services for those who are pursuing self-employment as an employment outcome;
14. Job search and placement assistance and job retention services;
15. Supported employment services;
16. Personal assistant services, including training in managing, supervising, and directing personal assistants;
17. Post-employment services necessary to maintain, regain, or advance in employment consistent with the individual's abilities, capabilities, and interests;
18. Occupational licenses, tools, equipment, initial stock, and supplies;
19. Rehabilitation technology, telecommunication, sensory, and other technological aids, devices, and services;
20. Transition services; and
21. Other goods and services which can reasonably be expected to benefit an individual with a disability in terms of employment outcome.

III. PROCEDURES:

Procedures for provision of assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs are outlined in Section 115.2, Eligibility and Ineligibility.

Procedures for provision of vocational rehabilitation services are outlined in Section 115.3, Individualized Plan for Employment.

Procedures for provision of post-employment services are outlined in Section 115.15, Post-Employment Services.

Procedures for notification of the individual of the denial, reduction, suspension, or cessation of vocational rehabilitation services are outlined in Section 115.12, Appeals/Impartial Due Process (Hearing and Mediation).